

America's First Choice

TAILWIND

TRAVIS AFB, CALIF.

FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 2003

VOLUME 28, NUMBER 12



WATCHING \$\$\$

The 60th Contracting Squadron looks out for Travis' financial matters.

21



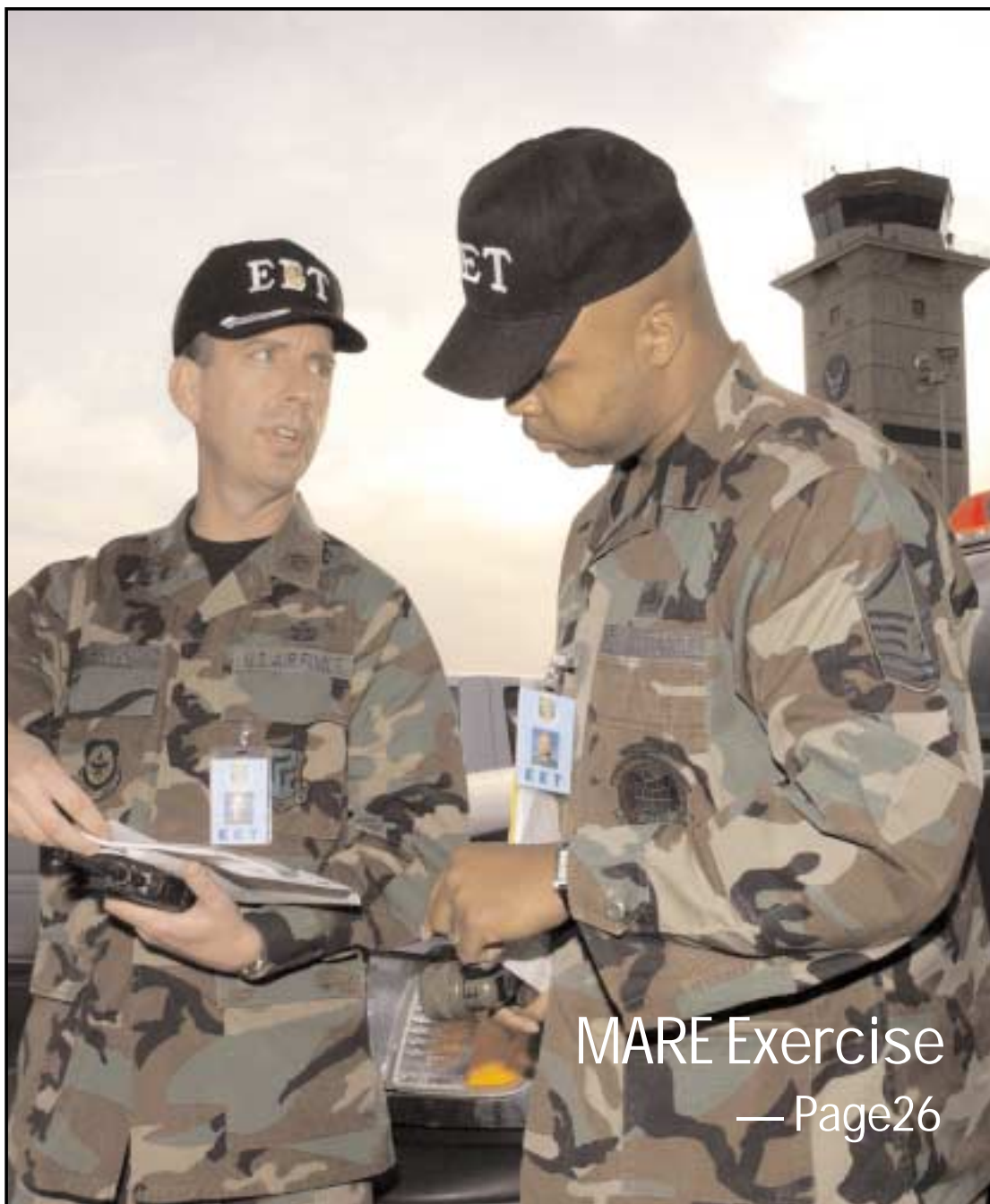
A'S DONATION

The Oakland A's have donated hundreds of tickets for upcoming games.

38

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Construction continues on Travis Boulevard along the outbound (West) side lanes. This work is projected to take approximately five more weeks to complete in both directions. Travis residents should exercise caution while driving through these areas and, at times, can expect some minor delays.



MARE Exercise
— Page26

Commander's Corner

Travis team rallies around families



Courtesy photo

Brig. Gen. Brad Baker, 60th AMW commander, step promoted Staff Sgt. Erick Fierro, 22nd Airlift Squadron, to Technical Sergeant.

By Brig. Gen. Brad Baker
60th AMW Commander

Last week, allied military operations began in Iraq. Travis continues to provide airlift and refueling downrange, to ensure our warfighters have what they need to accomplish this very important mission. In support of this effort, we have hundreds of people deployed from all job specialties, and they

"We are truly an Air Force family and when one of us needs help, we go to extraordinary lengths, if need be, to take care of each other"

are just doing superb across the board. I recently met with many of our folks at a deployed location, and they're meeting every operational challenge with aplomb. Let's all continue to

encourage and applaud these warriors whenever we can.

Support for Families

Deployments increase stress on the families left behind. The Family Support Center, Health and Wellness Center and spouses' groups have a number of programs available, to include

TIDES, Heartlink (page 15) and a myriad of others, designed to help families while the military member is deployed. I encourage family members to check out these programs, because they'll find a lot of positive support and assurances there. Also, when normal modes of communication are unavailable to the deployed member, unit leaders and supervisors can help keep the family informed. While extended deployments during times like these are not easy for families, there are services and people available to help make things quite a bit more bearable.

The Air Force Family

We are truly an Air Force family and when one of us needs help we go to extraordinary lengths, if need be, to take care of each other. One recent example of this is the extraordinary effort that came together on multiple levels, to help Senior Airman Josh Eisenman and his young family (see page 11). His infant daughter, Jada was stricken with a degenerative bone disease, requiring an experimental and expensive medical procedure. The support provided to the family by the 60th Logistics Readiness Squadron commander, Lt. Col. James Grant and First Sgt. Senior Master Sgt. Dave Mudge, along with the pros at the David Grant Medical Center

were instrumental in helping this family and I thank them for their efforts on the family's behalf.

As a result of their efforts, baby Jada is alive today. We are all excited about the new found hope for her and the whole Eisenman family. Airman Eisenman's comments (page 12) were totally unsolicited and do a wonderful job of summing up why so many people choose to serve a career in our Air Force.

I should also point out that the procedure for baby Jada would not have been possible without the full support of the TRICARE system. In addition, the folks at the 375th Logistics Readiness Squadron at Scott AFB also deserve praise for providing unwavering support for the Eisenmans during their stay in St Louis. So the next time you think about whether to stay in our Air Force or not, talk to the Eisenman family.

Accolades and Recognition

It was with great pleasure that I had the opportunity to STEP promote Staff Sgt. Erick J. Fierro, of the 22nd Airlift Squadron this week. Also, we have several outstanding units and individuals who've been recognized at Air Mobility Command and Air Force levels. My hat's off to Maj. David Coley of the 60th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron for earning the Air Force's Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez Award as Aircraft Maintenance Field Grade Manager of the Year.

Other Air Force level award winners include our Outstanding Band Officer of the Year, Band of the Golden West commander, Maj. Doug Monroe. In addition, congratulations to the 60th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs team for earning first place for the Tailwind at Air Force level, and third place for Travis' web-based publication, Tailwind online.

The great news doesn't stop there ... with our Air Mobility Command winners in the 60th Operation Support Squadron. I'm very proud of our Senior NCOs of the Year Master Sgt. Kimberly Trone, for earning the Air Traffic Control and Airfield Management Award and Senior Master Sgt.

Richard Cumelis for earning the Operations Resource Management Award.

A hearty well done to David Ready of the 60th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, for earning Air Mobility Command's Aircraft Maintenance Civilian Technician award; 6th Air Refueling Squadron for earning 15th Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Albert L. Evans Outstanding Air Refueling Section of the Year and the 60th Operations Support Squadron for earning 15th AF Outstanding Operations Support Squadron of the Year.

Other award winners include the 60th Air Mobility Wing Legal Office superstars, Lt. Col. Odell Grooms, for earning 15th Air Force's Reserve Judge Advocate of the Year and Linda Allen for earning Legal Service Civilian of the Year.

Finance office earns priceless praise

I have received considerable praise about the great job the finance team is doing, and I would just like to highlight that here. One happy customer said he has "always been pleased with the expeditious manner finance has completed my travel pay." My hat's off to Lt. Col. Terry Ross, of the 60th Comptroller Squadron, and his entire team.

This team has gone above and beyond to support people, working long hours and weekends if need be to support those deploying and those returning. To keep stress levels low, particularly when deploying and returning, it is most helpful to turn in vouchers on time. This team will ensure reimbursement within a reasonable time frame as well, so folks can pay off their Government Travel Card accounts. Fast service enables members to keep up with the Government Travel Card payments, and the importance of this can't be overstated, because I know it sometimes surprises us how quickly the expenses of hotels, rental cars as well as normal expenses add up.

Well, that's a recap for this week ... thanks to everyone for the hard work and dedication!

God bless the Travis team and God bless America!

TAILWIND

Travis AFB, Calif.
60th Air Mobility Wing

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60th Air Mobility Wing commander

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For information on paid advertising and on-base circulation, call (707) 425-4646. Correspondence may be sent to: Daily Republic; 1250 Texas St.; Fairfield, CA 94533 or faxed to (707) 425-5924.

On the Cover



Nann Wylie / Base Audiovisual

Members of a response team coordinate as part of the Mar. 20 Major Accident Response Exercise.

SPORTS SHORTS

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE

Lifeguards needed

The Travis Aquatic Center opens Memorial Day weekend and student lifeguards are needed. High school and college students age 16 and older may apply. Call Kalena Tillery at Human Resources at 424-3913 for more information.

Greens fees

Cypress Lakes Golf Course is raising its green fees for all categories beginning April 1. Log onto www.60thServices.com for the new price list.

Drivers needed

The Outdoor Adventure

Program needs volunteer drivers and adventure guides for upcoming trips including ski trips, rock climbing, river rafting and more. Volunteers will be trained and make the trip free of charge. Call Brandon Lavin at 424-5240 for details.

Youth fitness competition

The Youth Fitness Authority local pentathlon competition is April 12 at the Fitness Center. Students ages 10 to 18 are eligible to compete. Registration is from noon to 12:30 p.m. before the event.

Each event will be demonstrated at 12:35 p.m. and the competition will begin at 1 p.m. No late registration will be accepted. Call Larry Williams at 424-3131.

Looking for Sports Info.

The Tailwind is always looking for sports news and features. If you have an idea for a sports story, call the Tailwind at 424-0131. Sports stories can include unusual hobbies as well.

TRAVIS CINEMA

The Travis theater will be closed for renovation from Feb. 3 to early August. During the renovation, seats will be upgraded, soundproofing will be incorporated, and the building will undergo upgrades to meet base standards. Watch the Tailwind for details on its re-opening.

Visit www.aafes.com/ems.

Airman's The Book 2003

Available online!



www.af.mil/news/airman



The best guests to invite to a party are the designated drivers.

Do you have sports news? Call 424-2011.

FITNESS CENTER CLASSES

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE

Mondays

- » Core cycling from 5:30 to 6:30 a.m.
- » Cardio/sculpting from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.
- » Core step aerobics from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- » Introduction to Piyo in the martial arts dojo from noon to 1:30 p.m.
- » Phat Fitness for 12 and older from 4 to 5 p.m.
- » Core step aerobics from 5 to 6 p.m.
- » Butts-n-guts kickboxing aerobics from 6 to 7 p.m.
- » Kung Fu San Soo in the martial arts dojo from 6:30 to 8 p.m.
- » Cycling from 7 to 8 p.m.
- » Kickboxing with Dan Stell from 7 to 9 p.m.

Tuesdays

- » Core step aerobics from 5:30 to 6:30 a.m.
- » Piyo in the martial arts dojo from 6 to 7 a.m.
- » Senior Fitness from 9 to 10 a.m.
- » Core cycling from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- » Piyo in the martial arts dojo from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.
- » 15th AF squadron cycle from 3 to 4 p.m.
- » MDG squadron cycle from 4 to 5 p.m.
- » Core step aerobics from

5 to 6 p.m.

- » Kickboxing with Dan Stell from 5 to 7 p.m.
- » Core Power Blast from 6 to 7 p.m.
- » Wing Chun in the martial arts dojo from 6:30 to 8 p.m.
- » Cycling from 7 to 8 p.m.

Wednesdays

- » Core cycling from 5:30 to 6:30 a.m.
- » Yoga from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.
- » Gym in a Bag in the martial arts dojo from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- » Core step aerobics from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- » Introduction to cycling from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.
- » Phat Fitness for 12 and older from 4 to 5 p.m.
- » Core step aerobics from 5 to 6 p.m.
- » Kajukembo in the martial arts dojo from 5 to 6:30 p.m.
- » Kung Fu San Soo in the martial arts dojo from 6:30 to 8 p.m.
- » Cycling from 7 to 8 p.m.
- » Kickboxing with Dan Stell from 7 to 9 p.m.

Thursdays

- » Core step aerobics from 5:30 to 6:30 a.m.

- » Piyo in the martial arts dojo from 6 to 7 a.m.
- » Senior Fitness from 9 to 10 a.m.
- » Core cycling from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- » Yoga in the martial arts dojo from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.
- » 15th AF squadron cycle from 3 to 4 p.m.
- » MDG squadron cycle from 4 to 5 p.m.
- » Core cycling from 5 to 6 p.m.
- » Power Blast from 6 to 7 p.m.
- » Wing Chun in the martial arts dojo from 6:30 to 8 p.m.
- » Cycling from 7 to 8 p.m.
- » Kickboxing with Dan Stell from 5 to 7 p.m.

Fridays

- » Piyo in the martial arts dojo from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.
- » Core step aerobics from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- » Kajukembo in the martial arts dojo from 4:30 to 8 p.m.
- » Core kickboxing aerobics from 5 to 6 p.m.
- » Yoga from 6 to 7 p.m.

Saturdays

- » Cycling from 8 to 9 a.m.
- » Total Fitness from 9 to 10 a.m.

Check with the Fitness Center for updated seasonal changes for all fitness programs. Core classes are free for active-duty military, who must present a valid military ID in order to attend. All other classes are available to both active-duty and dependents, however, a pass purchased through the Fitness Center is required. For details, call 424-2008.



Nan Wylie / Visual Information

Kyler Aqueche participates in the hit-a-thon after the opening ceremony for the Travis Little League.

Little League hit-a-thon tees off

Linda Mann-Flames
60th Services Squadron

The crack of the bat, the call of the umpire, the cheering of the crowd...the magic of baseball has arrived at Travis. The Little League season opened Saturday amidst news of war. During the Opening Ceremonies Chaplain Jack Stanley gave the invocation and asked for a moment of silence to think of the troops in Iraq.

"Some people thought we should cancel the opening ceremonies," said Little League President Mary Flurey. "But the majority of us felt the kids needed to play. The president said we should continue our lives as normal as possible."

What could be more normal and American than baseball? In addition to the Travis Honor Guard posting the colors and Staff Sgt. Patrick Francia singing the National Anthem, the young players were each given a small American flag to wave. It was a day filled with fun, patriotism and good will.

"It was great to see all those American flags waving and the smiling faces of the youth showed

that the American spirit is still alive," said 1st Lt. William Gumbabon.

Mission Support Group Commander Col. Leonard Patrick spoke about the importance of programs like Little League in the community and the value of participating in the lives of today's youth. At the conclusion of his remarks he was excited to say, "Let's play ball!"

Each division had a youth catcher and an adult pitcher throw out the first ball for their age group.

Seniors — Col. Leonard Patrick, 60th Mission Support Group, pitcher; Bryan Fagan, catcher

Juniors — Col. Danny Steele, 60th Maintenance Group, pitcher; DJ Massey, catcher

Majors — Col. James Collier, 60th Medical Group, pitcher; Matt Gibbs, catcher

Minors — Chaplain Capt. Jack Stanley, 615th AMOG, pitcher; Brandon Flurry, catcher

Farm — Major Mark Ruse, 60th Civil Engineer Squadron; Joey Ruse, catcher

T-ball — Col. Susan Desjardins, 60th Operations Group, pitcher; Kyler Aqueche, catcher

Following the Opening Cere-

monies, the Little League Hit-A-Thon fund-raiser took the field.

"I thought the opening ceremonies and the Hit-A-Thon both went great. We had representatives from all 27 teams at the opening ceremony. The kids all seemed to really enjoy it," said Melodi Williams.

Following the Little League ceremonies 62 children participated in the first Hit-A-Thon fundraiser for Travis Little League.

Players in the T-Ball, Farm and Minor leagues collected pledges from individuals per foot hit. Each child was given three chances to hit a ball off a stationary tee with the longest hit record- ed.

Prizes will be awarded to the top two children with the farthest hit in each of the divisions and Little League will also award prizes for the individual and team with the highest dollar amount collected.

The program was sponsored in part by First Command, Army Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) and the 60th Services Squadron.

For more information about Little League and other youth sports at Travis, call William Crockett at 424-3592.

Soccer player is top female Air Force athlete

By Bill Winter
Space and Missile Systems Center Public Affairs

LOS ANGELES AIR FORCE BASE, Ca. — Competition and esprit de corps drive soccer player Kristy Kuhlman.

Now it has driven her to the top. Kuhlman, a second lieutenant contract specialist with the Space and Missile Systems Center's satellite and launch control system program office here, has been named the Air Force's 2002 Female Athlete of the Year.

Despite her competitive spirit, Kuhlman said she does not feel the recognition and honor of being selected top woman athlete in the Air Force should be solely hers.

"There are six of the best female soccer players in the whole Air Force here at Los Angeles Air Force Base," she said. "All deserve recognition."

Although it was not her aim, national recognition is following Kuhlman.

The 2001 Air Force Academy graduate gained five school goalkeeping records. The records were for most saves, least goals against, most saves in a game (16 versus Brigham Young University), most goalkeeper wins and most shutouts.

With a remarkable record of athletic achievement, Kuhlman remained at the academy for a year after graduation as an assistant goalkeeper coach and taught physical education to the cadets.

Before reporting for duty at Los Angeles AFB, Kuhlman kept up with her for-

mer classmates from the academy, and they encouraged her to apply for the Air Force Women's Soccer Team. The team beat Army, Navy and Marine Corps teams at Fort Eustice, Va., last May to win the Armed Forces Women's Soccer Championship.

From there, Kuhlman was selected to compete at the first "Conseil International du Sports Militaire" in the World Women's Soccer Championships in Kingston, Ontario. At the World Championships, Kuhlman was named most valuable player for two of the games and was pivotal in gaining the win for the United States in the inaugural championship with a 5-0 record.

"In women's soccer, the U.S. has always dominated — we're the powerhouse," Kuhlman said. "The toughest competition was from Holland and Germany. They may have had better individual players, but we worked better as a team and won through teamwork and goal-driven determination."

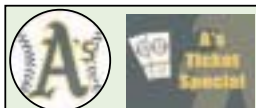
In keeping with her desire to mentor other female athletes, Kuhlman, a St. Charles, Mo., native, volunteers her time coaching the women's varsity soccer team at local Loyola Marymount University besides her sporting pursuits of mountain biking, rock climbing and surfing.

Kuhlman and the Air Force's Male Athlete of the Year, Staff Sgt. Anthony Patrick of Kadena Air Base, Japan, will be honored at a series of events in Washington later this month.



Courtesy photo

Soccer goalkeeper Kristy Kuhlman is the Air Force's 2002 Female Athlete of the Year. Kuhlman is a second lieutenant contract specialist with the Space and Missile Systems Center's satellite and launch control system program office at Los Angeles Air Force Base, Calif.



STYLE

The Oakland A's have donated 900 complementary tickets to three games against the Anaheim Angels. The April 4 game starts at 7 p.m., the April 5 game at 1 p.m. and the April 6 game at 5 p.m.

The tickets were donated as a gesture of support for Travis' continuing role in the war on terrorism.

Tickets can be picked up Monday at the 60th Air Mobility Wing headquarters, Public Affairs office, room 232, between the hours of 8 and 10 a.m. for families of deployed airmen and 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. for the general base population.

No phone calls, faxes or E-mails are allowed to reserve tickets. Tickets will be issued on a first-come-first-served basis.

Transportation will not be provided.



Special Delivery

Travis baby born on highway

By 1st Lt. Angela Arredondo
60th AMW Public Affairs

When the contractions started around lunch time on Mar. 18, Michele Lightbody and her husband, Senior Airman Kyle Lightbody, were very excited — it was time for their baby girl, Ilencia Claire, to be born. Apparently, the baby was very excited too.

At around 3:30 p.m., the family got into their Dodge Neon and raced from their home on Travis AFB to their hospital in Vallejo. However, it soon became very apparent they would not make in time.

"It happened so fast," Michele said. "I knew I was in full labor but I didn't want to say it because I didn't want my willpower to give in. But a second later, we were on the shoulder."

Kyle pulled the car over next to a highway callbox near the American Canyon exit and dialed 911.

"It took me about four or five times because my fingers wouldn't work, I was so excited. It was scary because I wasn't exactly sure where we were," Kyle said.

With the phone in one ear, Kyle prepared to deliver his own daughter.

"I did what any parent would have done - you do whatever is best for your children," Kyle said. "It was too fast, quick and intense to be scared. I saw the crown and after another contraction, the head came out, then the shoulder and finally, she just came out into my hands," Kyle said.

He used a towel to clear the baby's face and the healthy, 7-pound, 4-ounce baby girl she began to cry on her own.

"When she started crying I felt much better because I knew she was getting air," Kyle said. "I saw her hand!" squealed

older sister Theresa, 4, who sat calmly in the backseat throughout the birth.

California Highway Patrol arrived within minutes of the birth, followed quickly by the fire department and an ambulance.

"Everything was extremely quick," Kyle said. "I was surprised and impressed they arrived so fast. We felt much better because they had the right equipment to help," Kyle said.

"It's amazing to have the daddy deliver the baby," Michele said. In fact, Kyle was able to sign Ilencia's birth certificate where the delivery doctor usually signs.

Mother and baby are doing fine.

"We are just happy she is healthy. She's very strong and determined. Now we have someone famous in our family," Michele said.

As for their next child ... "I'll let the doctors handle that one," Kyle said.



1st Lt. Angela Arredondo / 60th AMW Public Affairs

Senior Airman Kyle Lightbody, his wife Michele and daughter Theresa, proudly gaze at Ilencia Claire, who was delivered by her father on the side of the road near the American Canyon exit on Interstate 80. The healthy baby weighed seven pounds, four ounces. Both mother and daughter are doing fine.

Force protection



Senior Airman Nicholas Olson / 60th AMW Public Affairs

Specialist Enrique Garcia, 1/144th Field Artillery Battalion, checks the identification card of a motorist entering the base. The Army National Guard has been working on Travis for several weeks now guarding the gates.

Talk to kids about deployments, war

Senior Airman Nicole Watt
60th AMW Public Affairs

Everyone has fears and reservations about deployment and war, especially when they have children. Spouses left behind with the kids may have anxiety regarding how to handle the inevitable questions and behaviors that will come their way.

Tech. Sgt. Maria McIntosh, Family Readiness Manager, 60th Mission Support Squadron, provides these helpful hints when dealing with children and even teenagers during this uncertain time.

» Be Honest. Children and teens will have many questions about where mom or dad is, what they are doing, and when they will be home.

Explain what your spouse's job is in terms that they will understand. "Young children often times believe that their parent is out there on the front lines, even if they are a pilot or nurse," McIntosh comments.

Dig out a map and show your children exactly where their mom or dad is located, if you can. At

least show them where the confrontation is actually occurring. "Children see things on TV and think that it's happening here in the United States, or maybe just down the street," says McIntosh.

» Continue a regular schedule. Keep things as ordinary and everyday as possible. Children can be easily upset by disruptions from what they know. Little changes for you can be big stressors for them.

» Keep open lines of communication. Encourage children to be open about fears and questions - this helps keep unfounded fears and rumors at bay. "What children hear on TV and at school may not be 100 percent accurate. Try to reinforce the truth of the matter," says McIntosh.

» Be sensitive to and act on unusual behavior. Children and teens will sometimes act out if they are feeling scared or abandoned. Confront these issues as they arise in a calm manner. Chances are your child will be back to normal in a few days, but if the behavior continues or is destructive to family or school life, it should be addressed in a timely

manner.

» Show strength and focus. Children base their reaction on how we react. They mirror our behavior. Try to keep emotional breakdowns from occurring in front of children.

» Kids are resilient. Don't overreact, be patient and help them figure out what's wrong. "It may not be about war or deployment at all," adds McIntosh.

There are many avenues that a parent can explore to help them cope with their children's questions and fears. The Family Support Center offers a mass Deployment Readiness Briefing every Tuesday at 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. as well as on Thursday at 2 p.m.. It covers issues such as legal paperwork, housing, finances, stress and what happens when the deployed come home. There is a wealth of pamphlet information at the center on helping children and teenagers cope with deployment and war. Individual appointments can also be scheduled at 424-2486. McIntosh also suggest the Healthy Parenting Initiative Web site at <http://www.mfrc.calib.com/healthy parenting>.

Teacher makes grade with radio station

By Senior Airman Nicholas Olson
60th AMW Public Affairs

It is not every day that a teacher gets to be recognized by a radio station for their hard work, but on March 20, Mrs. Judy Maroney, a kindergarten teacher at Travis' Center Elementary School, got a surprise from the parents of her students.

"I think it is great to see a teacher get honored," said Sue Weiss, Principal of Center. "It's a wonderful way to show appreciation to her and all teachers."

Radio station KUIC 93.5 FM in Vacaville presented Maroney with a slew of gifts for winning Teacher of the Month for February. She was nominated by Christine Abrams and Melody Dalton, parents of children in her kindergarten class.

"Mrs. Maroney has such a wonderful way of getting through to the children," Abrams said. "In my nomination I explained how the teaching military children is a job in itself. With the parents deploying, it's very hard for the children to keep their minds on school."

Maroney received dinner for four from Marie Callender's Restaurant, and a gift certificate for a pizza. The students in her class also received gift certificates for personal serving-sized pizzas and a free pie from Marie Callender's.

"It was a thrill for me to get such an honor," Maroney said.

Maroney has taught at Travis for 25 years. Since the age of 15, Maroney had wanted to be a teacher. In her teens, she was a member of the Future Teachers Club in high school. She eventually went on to Michigan State University where she received a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education.

"I teach kindergarten so the most important part of my job is to really set the tone for their whole school life," Maroney said. "I want them to know that they are smart and can really feel good about themselves."

Maroney has always loved teaching and looks forward to coming to class in the morning.

"Every day is different, you never know what they are going to come up with," Maroney said. "They are always excited about learning. Being able to look around and see all the other wonderful teachers and pull from what they know."

Maroney gives credit to her co-kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Colleen Lavell, as her reason for success in the classroom.

"I call her brain one and I am brain two," Maroney. "Put it together and that's how we function."

Maroney received a \$100 gift certificate to use toward school supplies, a free pizza from Cenario's courtesy of Potrero Hills Landfill and each student also received gift certificates for Marie Callender's and mini-pizzas from Cenario's.



Senior Airman Nicholas Olson / 60th AMW Public Affairs

Judy Maroney, on left, is presented a plaque from Center Elementary principal Sue Weiss for being named Teacher of the Month by KUIC radio in Vacaville. Maroney has been teaching kindergarten for 25 years at the school.

Officials urge against unsolicited troop mail

By Senior Airman Nicole Watt
60th AMW Public Affairs

To bolster force protection, the general public is urged not to send unsolicited mail, care packages or donations to forward-deployed service members unless they are a family member, loved one or personal friend, said Department of Defense officials.

On Oct. 30, DOD suspended the "Operation Dear Abby" and "Any Servicemember" mail programs because of force protection concerns. Although these programs provide support to friends and loved ones stationed overseas, they also provide an avenue to introduce hazardous substances or materials into the mail system from unknown sources.

Unsolicited mail, packages and donations from organizations and individuals also compete for limited airlift space used to transport supplies, war fighting materiel and mail from family and loved ones.

"I get calls every day from people thinking I have a way to bundle items up and send them to the troops," said Master Sgt. Lucinda Matteson, Superintendent, Travis Family Support Center. "I have to tell them I don't have a way to do that."

Recently, DOD officials became aware of organizations and individuals who continue to support some form of the "Any Servicemember" program by using the names and addresses of individual service members and unit addresses.

These programs are usually supported by well-intentioned, thoughtful and patriotic groups who are simply unaware of the new risks facing deployed military forces, said officials. Some individuals and groups publicize the names and addresses of service

members, ships or units on Web sites. The result is a potential danger to the troops they wish to support.

DOD officials cannot support creative and well-intentioned efforts that defeat force protection measures, but can instead recommend alternatives to mail and donation programs.

Matteson suggested that the best way to show support to troops overseas is to help support the families left behind.

"We can still use items for people still here, especially the children," said Matteson. "Thanks you notes and cards can be distributed to people still on base. Families are making big sacrifices — they need to see that they are appreciated too."

While troops are deployed, families are sometimes forced to make lifestyle changes or even get second jobs. "Food pantry donations are always accepted, as well as activity books, coloring books, puzzles and games for the kids," said Matteson.

Donations should be dropped off at the Family Support Center. Items will be given to First Sergeants and spouses' groups for distribution.

Matteson also suggests sending thank you cards to veterans' homes, and even arranging visits. "Our veterans put everything on the line, but didn't get a lot of appreciation at the time," commented Matteson.

Some other options are to visit Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals and nursing homes, to volunteer services to honor veterans who served in past conflicts, or to volunteer with the Red Cross or another local war aid agency near you.

Portions of this article were contributed by Air Force Print News.

Operation Iraqi Freedom coalition statistics as of Friday, March 21

Air component sorties

- » 2,000 sorties (1,000 strike sorties)
- » Attacked 1,500 airpoints
- » 1,000 cruise missiles, air and sea launched
- » Strategic targets set:
 - » 4 Regime leadership
 - » Regime command and control
 - » Regime security
 - » Integrated air defense systems
 - » Weapons of mass destruction

Strike missions

(Including Air Force F-117, B-2, B-52H, B-1B, F-15E, F-16, Navy, Marine Corps and coalition aircraft)

- » Flew through heavy defenses/no launch of enemy aircraft
- » Airplanes took off as far away as Whiteman AFB, Mo.
- » Whiteman 34 hours roundtrip
- » Some forward deployed sorties are 16 hours round trip
- » 30 more airbases from a dozen countries plus 5 carriers (very complex command and control)

Munitions

- » For first time in history every munition used against the strategic target set was precision guided - heavy on JDAMs (penetrating and nonpenetrating kind) and EGBU-27s
- » B-52s dropped CALCMs (Conventional Air Launched Cruise Missiles)
- » B-2s dropped JDAMs (Joint Direct Attack Munition)
- » F-117s released EGBU-27s in the last 24 hours
- » Coalition ship-launched Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles (TLAMs)

Source: Defense Department Official

Travis selects actor as performance narrator

By 1st Lt. Angela Arredondo
60th AMW Public Affairs

Travis Air Force Base has selected actor James Avery as the guest artist narrator of a special musical and air performance, which starts at 6:55 p.m. April 19 on the flight line here.

The event, called the America's First Choice Tattoo, is dedicated to the families of deployed Travis members. It features live music, timed flyovers, historical narration, actors and dancers. The America's First Choice Tattoo is open to base personnel, family members and Department of Defense identification card holders.

The U.S. Air Force Band of the Golden West will perform gathering music starting around 6 p.m. The Tattoo will run until about 8 p.m.

James Avery played uncle Philip Banks on the television series, "The Fresh Prince of Bel Air" and was the host of "Going Places," a critically-acclaimed PBS series, produced by Thirteen WNET in New York.

As the guest artist narrator of the America's First Choice Tattoo, Avery will read a special script, which will chronicle Air Force history and Travis AFB heritage. During the performance, the band will play background music with the script and timed flyovers.

The flyovers include a P-51 Mustang, B-25 bomber, C-46 airlift aircraft and various current U.S. Air Force aircraft. The performance will conclude with a formal retreat and finale called "Bridges into Space."

"It's fortunate we are to have this talented and skilled actor join us for this special event. His extraordinary skills will undoubtedly enhance the 2003 Travis Tattoo," said Master Sgt. Janet Blaise, USAF Band of the Golden West member.

The Travis military Tattoo will be held on the flight line on the painted "red carpet," adjacent

to Base Operations and the air traffic control tower. Audience members may park in designated parking areas and shuttle busses will run regularly to bring people to the performance area. Travis members are encouraged to bring blankets and chairs or lawn chairs.

Avery says most of his television characters resemble his own personality.

"I come from poor roots and used to say to my mother how unfair it was that blacks need to be 10 times better than anyone else to make it. She would say 'stop whining and be 10 times better,'" Avery said.

After graduating from high school in his native Atlantic City, New Jersey, Avery joined the Navy and served in Vietnam from 1968 to 1969. He settled in San Diego after his discharge



Avery

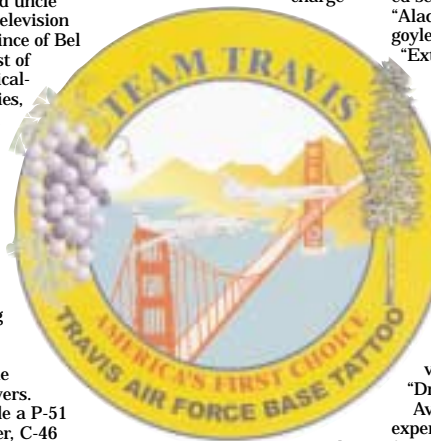
He has guest-starred on "The Jamie Foxx Show," "Two Guys, a Girl, and a Pizza Place," "Dharma and Greg," "City of Angels," and "C.S.I.: Crime Scene Investigation." Avery has also provided voices for animated series on television such as "Aladdin," "Duckman," "Gargoyles," "Spider-Man," and "Extreme Ghostbusters."

His feature films include "Dancing in September," which was selected as an official entry in the 2001 Sundance film festival, "Wheelmen," "Chasing Sunsets," "Honeybee," "Out in Fifty," "After Romeo," "Advanced Guard," "Twelve Bucks," "The Brady Bunch Movie," "Fletch," "License to Drive" and "Eight Million Ways to Die." He provided the voice of 'Eldon' in "Dr. Doolittle 2."

Avery has extensive theater experience too. He has performed at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, Oregon playing leads such as "Othello" and "Sizwe Bansi is Dead." In 2001, he played 'Montague,' Romeo's father in the Ahmanson Theatre production of "Romeo and Juliet," directed by Sir Peter Hall.

He is also a spokesman for "CalTeach," California's Teacher Recruitment Campaign.

"To be a teacher is a gift. It's an amazing thing. I owe a debt of gratitude to all the teachers I've had," Avery said.



and wrote poetry and television scripts for PBS, winning an Emmy for production.

James won a scholarship to the University of California at San Diego, where he obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree in drama and literature. In 1966, Avery received an honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters from Virginia State University.

Avery has had recurring roles on shows like "Murder One," "L.A. Law," "Hill Street Blues."

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Officials discuss progress of air war

By Senior Master Sgt. Rick Burnham
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — As the number of sorties flown by coalition air forces in Operation Iraqi Freedom reaches into the thousands, officials from U.S. Central Command said March 24 they were pleased with the results of those efforts.

Army Gen. Tommy Franks, CENTCOM commander, told reporters during a press briefing at the command's forward headquarters in Qatar that coalition aircraft were pounding Iraqi regime and military targets in a number of different regions throughout the country.

"Our air forces continue to strike regime command and control and military formations virtually all over the country with precision munitions and precision application of those munitions," he said.

Reporters in Qatar were shown a series of videos and slides indicating damage to a variety of targets, such as Iraqi command bunkers, barracks and equipment, including a MiG fighter jet that had been towed away from an airfield.

"These are images from different regime targets that have been attacked over the last several days, just to demonstrate the nature of that effectiveness and let you see it for yourself," said Army Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks, CENTCOM deputy operations officer.

The targets included the headquarters of the "enforcement arm of the Iraqi regime"; the Iraqi intelligence service, which Brooks said has ties to terrorism throughout the world; and barracks facilities of the Palace Guard, responsible for the protection of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

While air strikes have been conducted throughout the country, Brooks said the attacks in and around the capital city of Baghdad have been particularly effective. He stressed that a primary goal of all coalition aircraft is minimal damage to civilian areas and infrastructure.

"We remain committed to minimizing the potential effects on the people of Iraq and also the infrastructure," he said. "We strive for precision engagement in all we do. We want to be very precise about what it is we are targeting, how we choose to target it, and also to minimize the effects on things we don't intend to attack."



Looking for information or
telephone numbers?
Call the Base Operator
424 - 1110

Travis mainframes at work



Master Sgt. Dave Ahlschwede / AFPN



Petty Officer 2nd Class James K. McNeil / AFPN

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

Above — Senior Airman Josh Swisher guards an entry control point to the KC-10 Extender parking area at a forward-deployed location. The 409th Air Expeditionary Group flies air-refueling missions supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Left — A Navy MH-53E Sea Dragon is unloaded from an Air Force C-5 Galaxy. The helicopter will support naval vessels in the Mediterranean Sea.

Jazz artist still 'sticking' with it

By Senior Airman Nicole Watt
60th AMW Public Affairs

The sounds of wild drumming bled through the walls of the USAF Band of the Golden West's rehearsal hall as I entered the building, ready to enjoy an afternoon clinic with Steve Smith.

As a part of their ongoing Guest Artist Series, The Band of the Golden West here at Travis brought in Smith, a drummer known mostly for his time with the band Journey as well as his own group Vital Information, to do a clinic with band members on Friday, and then to perform with the Commanders jazz ensemble Saturday evening at the Vacaville Performing Arts Theatre.

Smith's vast knowledge of the drum set became apparent as he shared some playing techniques with the percussionists in the band and then moved onto a brief history of the drum set.

"The drum set is a U.S. instrument," Smith said. "Slaves were forced to play Western military instruments — the snare and bass drum, because they were forbidden to use their native hand drums."

Moving into a hands-on demonstration, Smith led us in a hand clapping exercise to highlight the complex roots of American rhythm.

"Time is keeping the pulse steady, not just hitting the beats at the right moment," shares Smith as we all followed his lead, beating our hands to thighs — accenting here, using only one hand there, using his feet on the pedals.

As we continued, Smith moved to his set and began using the pattern we were beating. Amazingly, he moved from style to style — moving from swing, to rock, to funk, to bebop and back again, without missing a beat. He left us all speechless as we ended the exercise.



Senior Airman Nicole Watt / 60th AMW Public Affairs

Drummer Steve Smith, formerly of the rock band Journey, shares his talent with the Band of the Golden West at a clinic March 21.

The clinic ended with questions for Smith and a jam session including Staff Sgt. Gary Rosenak on guitar and Airman 1st Class Josh Holdridge on bass.

Smith has worked with the USAF Band of the Pacific in Yokota, Japan, as well as the USAF Band of Mid-America at Scott AFB, Ill. No stranger to the military band scene, Smith shared that "it's been great to work with the bands. The rock band at Scott even opened up for Vital Information in St. Louis."

"The band here feels good to play with," adds Smith. "I like the music selection, and all the players are really strong, especially lead trumpet and the string bass."

The Commanders and Smith played on Saturday night to a packed house at the Vacaville Performing Arts Theatre.

The first half of the concert featured Staff Sgt. Kim Lively, singing a great arrangement of "I'm Beginning to See the Light," followed by the local debut of Senior Airman Paula

Prior to that, the series was held over Veteran's Day at the Veterans Home located in Yountville, CA.

"We moved the series to Vacaville, because they love to hear the band perform — especially with great artists," said Maj. Douglas Monroe, Commander, USAF Band of the Golden West. "We try to draw jazz artists to the area to help with education and community outreach."

The program also affords band members the opportunity to work with world-renowned artists, which according to Monroe, helps the musicians improve and become a better

band.

"He [Smith] made me want to get back to the fundamentals of playing and figure out how I can incorporate those basics into my playing techniques," Griffin said.

Upcoming performances for the band include the Concert Band with guest conductors H. Robert Reynolds and Harvey Benstein on April 13 at 3 p.m. at the Vacaville Performing Arts Theatre. For ticket information, call the Theatre Box Office at 449-6217. All the band components will be performing at the "America's First Choice" Tattoo on base, April 19th.

Goetz singing a classic from George and Ira Gershwin's musical "Porgy and Bess," "I Love's You Porgy." The band ended the first half with a number entitled "Count Bubba", which brought the house to its feet.

Smith joined the Commanders on the second half of the program. He opened with a snare solo, which awed the crowd. Then the band joined Smith on a Sammy Nestico composition called "Ya Gotta Try." There was definitely no trying involved as Smith wowed the audience, and the band with his first drum solo of the evening.

"He has incredible command over the set," said Senior Airman Troy Griffin, drummer for the Band of the Golden West's rock band, Galaxy. "It's great to see someone play live. You can listen to CDs, but who knows if it's doctored up? When it's live you can see the real talent."

The Band of the Golden West has been doing the Jazz Guest Artist Series for the last three years in the Vacaville area.



Senior Airman Josh Eisenman, his wife Rianne and four-year-old son J.R., are optimistic about the recovery of Jada Eisenman, the infant girl born with a degenerative bone disease. Jada recently underwent a successful bone chip and marrow transplant at Cardinal Glen Children's Hospital in St. Louis, Mo.

Courtesy photo

Baby undergoes life-saving procedure

By Capt. Michele Tasista
Chief, 60th AMW Public Affairs

Senior Airman Josh Eisenman and his young family faced and overcame a life challenge most never will.

Soon after entry into this world, his infant daughter Jada was diagnosed with a rare degenerative bone disease known as hypophosphatasia. The only known medical treatment was an experimental procedure, performed on few patients, involving the transfer of a bone chip and marrow from an elder child. Jada's four-year-old brother provided this gift, and on January 2 the transplant was completed successfully at the Cardinal Glen Children's Hospital in St. Louis.

Since the surgery, Jada has continued to gain weight and increase bone mass, according to her dad. "It is such a blessing that she is still alive," stated Eisenman. "We thank God for the work that he has done in Jada."

In addition to divine intervention, an extraordinary, coordinated effort of many Air Force people and agencies just before Christmas helped to make the procedure a reality. The family's journey began in Turkey, where Jada was born. With stops at various medical installations, the family arrived to Travis in October 2002, home to the 60th Air Mobility Wing's David Grant Medical Center.

"We are all excited about the new found hope for baby Jada Eisenman and the whole Eisenman family," said Brig. Gen. Brad Baker, 60th Air Mobility

Wing commander. "We are truly a family and when one of us needs help we go to extraordinary lengths, if need be, to take care of each other."

The team that made the procedure possible, included base, medical and squadron leaders who worked tirelessly behind the scenes. This support began before Eisenman and his family arrived to Travis in October 2002, according to Lt. Col. James Grant, 60th Logistics Readiness Squadron commander.

"I stayed informed of the situation and ensured my staff was working closely with the Eisenman family as well as the squadron in Turkey to help with the PCS actions," stated Grant. "We also gave them support when they arrived — arranging meals, transportation, and lodging, and of course encouragement."

After their arrival, physicians from the 60th Medical Group worked exhaustively to meet Jada's daily medical needs and answering the family's desperate feelings, while researching the best medical options, including where the unique procedure could be performed. Lt. Col. David Paul and Capt. Brad Boetig were the primary physicians who worked the case.

Once the research protocol was accepted by the hospital, the Travis team emergency transported the family to Scott AFB, Ill., within two days—just four days before Christmas.

To help transport the family, 60th Air Staging Facility workers were key, to include Master Sgt. Thule Huff, Staff Sgt. Dari-

on Reyes and Senior Airman Edward Chute.

While Jada was an inpatient at the hospital's Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, the family stayed in the Ronald McDonald House. Last week, Eisenman sent the following note to the those who helped him and his family through this difficult time.

Dear Eisenman family supporters:

First I would like to thank you all for your love, support, and prayers. The last seven months of our lives have not been easy. We have been to eleven different hospitals in three different countries. Presently, the family and I are in St. Louis, Missouri. We have been here for the last two months. On the second of January Jada received a life saving operation. The operation was a bone chip and bone marrow transplant. My son J.R., was the donor. The doctors took the bone chips from the back of his pelvis and put them into Jada's stomach and pelvis. In the last few weeks Jada has been growing heavier, she is now a little more than 16lbs. She has also started to have new bone growth throughout her whole body. It is such a blessing that she is still alive. We both thank God for the work that he has done in Jada.

I would also like to thank every person that has been involved in keeping me with my family. It would be easy to ask me to work. The United States Air Force and the United States Military have been there for me and my family every step of the way. The support that I have received has been outstanding. Thank you.

Pilots say training prepared them for

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Pilots flying combat missions over Iraq in recent days are saying that the real-world operations there are validating their years of training.

The comments came from a March 26 teleconference in which pilots and other members of the 363rd Air Expeditionary Wing at an undisclosed location described recent operations to reporters here. One KC-10 Extender pilot said that what he is experiencing now is exactly what his training prepared him for.

"I have flown some missions during (Operation) Enduring Freedom over Afghanistan, but the pace was not as intensive as it is here," said Maj. Darron, who like the other pilots in the

teleconference, asked that his full name be withheld. "Also, there are a lot of airplanes in the sky and more people shooting back here. But we have trained for this.

"I've been flying the KC-10 for a long time, and that's what training does. It really mimics what could possibly happen when you get into action or combat," said Darron, who's deployed from Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

In some cases, the training scenarios are actually more difficult than real-world situations, according to Capt. Paul, an F-16 Fighting Falcon pilot deployed from Misawa Air Base, Japan.

"Red Flag (a training exercise in Nevada) is a lot more intense than this," Paul said. "At Red Flag, the adversaries



Master Sgt. Stefan Alford / AFPM

Crew chiefs with the 332nd Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron prepare to launch F-16 Fighting Falcons from a desert air base March 24.

were a heck of a lot better."

Paul's mission is suppression of enemy air defenses — knocking out enemy ground-based weaponry such as anti-aircraft artillery and surface-to-air missiles.

"There's been lots of AAA and surface-to-air missiles," Paul said. "And we've been doing lots of suppression of enemy air defenses the last

few days. I would say it is a moderate threat. As you have seen on TV, it is pretty thick around Baghdad. But that's the only real threat — Baghdad."

This is Paul's first time flying in actual combat and his first time being fired upon by enemy anti-aircraft weaponry.

"It's sort of surreal, sort of nerve racking," he said. "It

kind of ticks you off really."

But when the weapons do start flying past his wingtips, Paul said he thinks back to his training.

"Flying in combat, actually getting to do what you have trained for years and years to do, ... is the real thing," Paul said. "It's not difficult and is a lot more exciting than expected."

Travis personnel and vRED

Byline here

Completion of the vRED is mandatory for all Air Force personnel.

Many people are aware of the Virtual Record of Emergency Data available through the Virtual MPF on the AFPC web page. Although AFPC made this new service available Air Force-Wide on Jan. 27, there is a planned staggered implementation plan in place. This is in effect to combat overwhelming the AFPC server. Travis' scheduled implementation begins May 5 and completes May 25.

Travis personnel need to stop using the vRED service through the vMPF until directed otherwise. The only exceptions to this policy are those members TDY (in excess of 30 days), PCS, retirement/separation, change in marital status, and dependency changes. Members in these situations must use the

vRED service and provide copies to proper unit personnel (UDM and CSS). Members who have already completed their vRED must print a copy of the "Proof of Successful Completion" for their CSS or a new vRED must be updated during the implementation period. When members try to access Virtual MPF, they are prompted with an individual suspense for vRED. This can be by-passed by clicking onto the "vMPF Home" link. If members don't have a User ID/password or have forgotten their information, they may create/recreate their account/password on the vMPF website. Members will need the following information to process the v-RED: TAFMSD, Immediate family member address and phone numbers. People may access the site by using this link — http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/km/vMPF_Portal/vMPF_Portal.htm.

'Gas & Go'



Staff Sgt. Cherie A. Thurlby / AFPN

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM —

An F-16 Fighting Falcon receives fuel from a tanker in the skies near Iraq on March 22. The F-16s are from the 35th Fighter Wing "Wild Weasel's", Misawa Air Base, Japan.

Chapel offers new worship service

By Senior Airman Nicole Watt
60th AMW Public Affairs

Airman and their families will have a new choice when it comes to looking for protestant worship services.

Capt. Herbert Shao, Chaplain, 60th Maintenance Group, has created a new program for service members and their families seeking out protestant liturgical services at Travis.

"People have been asking me for some time, since they know that I am a Lutheran minister, if there would ever be a Lutheran service," Shao explained. "When we looked at the alpha roster we saw that there were several liturgical or traditional religions represented in our community."

Liturgical faiths include Methodist, Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Lutheran and the United Church of Christ.

"The new service will be oriented to serve as a more traditional form of worship," Shao said. "There has not been a service like this, at Travis, for years."

There are currently four protestant services including Gospel, contemporary, casual contemporary and a general protestant worship.

"Most of the churches around the base try to meet the needs of all people of protestant faiths," said Capt. Jack Stanley, Chaplain, 615th Air Mobility Operations Group. "The new service would focus on those of liturgical denominations."

Liturgical denominations conduct a more tradition-based service, according to Stanley.

"We are focused on creating an atmosphere of reverence, awe, and mystery regarding our faith," Shao said.

The service will be of a more formal nature, according to Shao. The pastors will wear traditional garments and will include the sacraments.

"There are people that appreciate the history of our church," Shao said. "We want people to be able to come home where things are familiar and comforting where you can know what to expect."

"We have been thinking, over the years, how we could meet the specific needs of the people," Stanley said. "We would like to see the addition of confirmation and an outreach to the people of the Air Force and their families."

Infant baptisms and confirmation classes would be offered to those seeking to join a certain liturgical faith.

"A service member or their children could enter into a class to work on becoming full members of their faith," Stanley said.

The service will also cater to people who are seeker-sensitive, said Shao.

"We will be presenting it in such a way that anyone can attend and feel comfortable being there," Shao said. "We

want people to feel that, even if they are not of a liturgical faith, that they are welcome to come and join."

The new service is scheduled to begin on April 6 at 9 a.m. in Fellowship Hall of Chapel One. The service will be an addition to the services currently offered. Childcare will be available for parishioners.

TRAVIS CHAPEL COMMUNITY SERVICES AND NEWS

Catholic services

- » Monday through Friday, 11:30 a.m., communion service or Mass, Chapel Center.
- » Thursday, noon, Catholic communion service, DGMCC Chapel.
- » Saturday, 4:15 to 4:45 p.m., confessions, Chapel One.
- » Saturday Mass, 5 p.m., Chapel One.
- » Sunday Mass, 9 a.m., Chapel One.
- » Sunday, 9 a.m., children's liturgy of the Word, Chapel One.
- » Sunday Mass, 12:30 p.m., Chapel Center.

Protestant services

- » Friday, noon, 30-minute worship service, DGMCC Chapel.
- » Sunday, 8 a.m., praise and worship service, Chapel Center.
- » Sunday, 10:30 a.m., community worship service, Chapel Center. Nursery class for kids 3 months to 3 years.
- » Sunday, 11 a.m., community Gospel service, Chapel One.

Contemporary services

Inside Out — Sundays at 5 p.m. at the Chapel Center. A children's program is provided. For more information, contact Chaplain (Capt.) Herb Shao at 424-3943.

Wicca services

Classes are held at various locations and times. E-mail beltane@prodigy.net for current information.

Chapel News

Lent Schedule

- » St. Michael Catholic Community Lenten Penance service Wednesday, 6 p.m., Chapel Center
- » Living Stations of the Cross, April 11, 6 p.m., Duck Pond Fitness Trail.
- » Protestant Lenten lunch, April 16, noon, Chapel One.
- » Protestant Maundy Thursday, April 17, 7 p.m., Chapel Center
- » Catholic Holy Thursday, April 17, 7 p.m., Chapel One
- » Protestant Good Friday Tenebrae service, April 18, 8 p.m., Chapel Center
- » Catholic Good Friday, April 18, noon, Chapel Center, (Stations of the Cross), 3 p.m., Chapel One (Passion of Christ)



Travis Chapels:

Chapel One — located on First Street (next to base theater).
Chapel Center — located on Cannon Drive in the Military Family Housing area.
DGMCC Chapel — located on the second floor of David Grant Medical Center.

Heart Link program coming to Travis in April

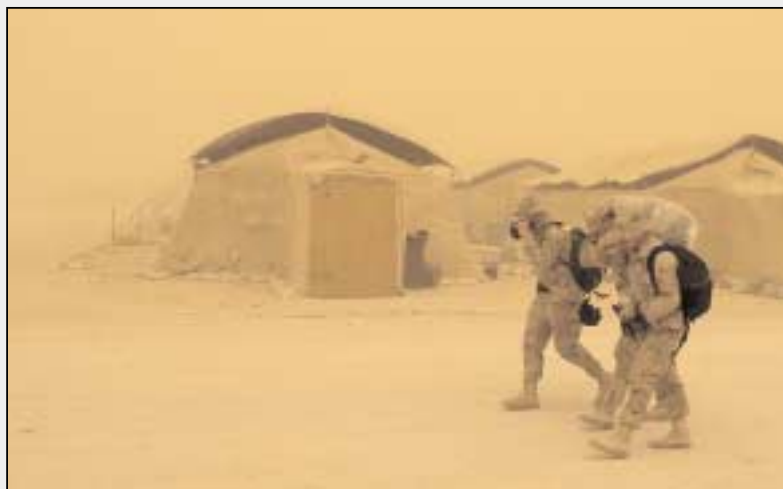
Clear up the myths; understand the system and receive a better understanding of Air Force benefits and services. It's Air Force 101 from A to Z; a tool for those new to the Air Force or those who want to learn more about what benefits are out there.

The Heart Link program will take place May 6 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Family Support Center. A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided and reimbursement is available for child-care.

For more information and to sign up, call the FSC at 424-2486.



The sands of time



Staff Sgt. Derrick C. Goode / AFPN

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM — Airmen struggle to walk through a heavy sand storm at a forward-deployed air base March 26. Troops supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom are battling sand storms throughout Southwest Asia.

TIDeS Says 'get TUFF'

Col. Jeff Paddock
60th Medical Group

Most people know if they don't take care of their health through diet, exercise, and avoiding tobacco products they pay a heavy price. People now know their health also depends on a less widely understood influence — the extent to which they are involved in their communities and connected to their neighbors, co-workers and their families.

Social isolation has long been identified as a risk factor for depression, family violence, and suicide. Recent research has shown people with few social ties are two to five times more likely to die of all causes than those with more extensive contacts.

Unfortunately, over the past two to three decades, communities and neighborhoods throughout the country have become less cohesive.

"Rising crime rates, the increase in dual-income families, frequent moves, and even the increased use of the Internet have been cited as factors that have contributed to neighbors being more isolated from one another," said Maj. John Leitnaker, Chairman of the Travis Integrated Delivery System.

Military communities have not been immune to these changes, and have also been impacted by the increase in deployments, further isolating members and their families.

"Building strong, resilient communities requires participation by all of our people," Leitnaker said.

The TIDeS is a working group composed of leadership representatives from six primary helping agencies on base: Chaplains, Child and Youth Programs, Family Advocacy, Family Support, Health and Wellness Center and the Life Skills Support Center.

Functioning as a "virtual" rather than a traditional agency, the TIDeS team is defined by its activity and not by its location.

Team members collaborate to pool resources to help community members increase social connections, reduce stress, and strengthen themselves especially when facing tough times.

"Since 9/11 we have been emphasizing the need for people to stay connected to one another and to find ways to take care of themselves and those around them, including their children," he said.

"Supporting them, nurturing them and modeling healthy, community minded behavior is the best defense against terrorism or almost any other threat they may face. Examples include staying physically fit, helping families of those deployed, welcoming newcomers to the base and promoting volunteerism and community participation ... there are a thousand ways to be involved."

In addition to promoting social connections, TIDeS is also focusing on centralizing information and referral to base and community services, and to developing integrated preven-

tion services. The TIDeS team recently collaborated to publish the Fiscal Year 03/04 Resource Guide for Team Travis featuring the "Lets Roll" nose art that is now displayed on a handful of Air Force aircraft, including a Travis C-5 Galaxy and a KC-10 Extender.

On May 3, TIDeS and the Travis Unified School District will co-sponsor a Get "TUFF" (Travis United For Freedom) Fest at Travis Elementary school for parents and children. The focus will be on strategies for parents and children to stay strong and resilient in the face of a world threatened by terrorism and war.

Jaye Hurt, a Family Support Center representative to the TIDeS, points out that the team depends on data from a variety of sources to help the team decide where to direct resources. One such source is the 2003 Air Force Community Assessment which will be conducted from April through early June, and will be directed at a random sample of Air Force members (active and reserve) and spouses.

"This is an opportunity for Travis people to tell us a great deal about their experience of the Travis community and to let us know where there are opportunities to improve. getting as many people as possible to respond will ultimately help all of us," Hurt said.

Utilize the resources readily available to you and your family. If people need help, want to get information or access to services for someone else, need a speaker for their organization, or simply want to volunteer, contact any of the Travis Integrated Delivery System agencies listed here:

- Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment 423-2348
- Chaplain 424-3217
- Family Advocacy 423-5168
- Family Member Programs Flight 424-2502
- Family Support Center 424-2486
- Health & Wellness Center 423-5174
- Reserve Family Readiness 424-1616

**Are
you
ready?**

TDY's, deployments, family emergencies, remote assignments? Call the Family Support Center at 424-2486 and receive a free Air Force Readiness Packet.

Retired senior master sergeant returns to Reserves

By Senior Airman Nicholas Olson
60th AMW Public Affairs

Two years ago, the Air Force implemented changes to allow retirees to return to active service. On Friday, Senior Master Sgt. Dianne Buckhout took the oath to rejoin the 349th Medical Squadron.

Buckhout retired from reserve duty in 1995 as a senior master sergeant with 22 years in both the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve. After retiring she moved, with her family, to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, with her family, where she worked for the government for two years as a member of the first Disaster Medical Assistance Team for the U.S. Public Health Service.

She returned to the United States in 2001 and felt that she missed the Air Force and wanted to re-enlist. However, the unusual request took more than two years of effort and numerous approvals up to and including the highest level of the Military Personnel Division, according to her husband, retired Army Maj. Ron Buck-

hout, formerly special forces.

"I realized after two years in Saudi Arabia that I missed being in the Air Force," Buckhout said.

Buckhout contacted the Air Reserve Personnel Center in Denver, Colo. to re-enlist in October of 2001. After two years of effort, Buckhout finally was able to re-enlist into her former unit at Travis. Buckhout will be assigned as a nursing services supervisor.

"It was a long and arduous battle to get back in," Buckhout said. "I had to work every step of the way."

Buckhout has spent several years of not only her Air Force career, but her youth at Travis. Buckhout's father was stationed at Travis during the late 1960s and her family lived in base housing.

In 1968, at the age of 16, Buckhout worked as a candy striper at the old hospital, attending to returning Vietnam injured veterans.

Buckhout was sworn in by Col. Robert Singler, commander, 349th Medical Group. In attendance was her husband and son.



Senior Airman Nicholas Olson / 60th AMW Public Affairs

Dianne Buckhout, a retired Senior Master Sergeant with the 349th, signs her re-enlistment papers. Buckhout returns to the reserves after an eight-year absence.

Twenty Travis Airman selected for Below-the-Zone

9th Aerial Refueling Squadron

Johnson, John

21st Airlift Squadron

Burnett, Kevin

22nd Airlift Squadron

Dhaliwal, Elizabeth

60th Operations Support Squadron

Ward, Mark

60th Medical Diagnostics Therapeutic Squadron

Saechao, Muang

60th Medical Operations Squadron

Fronefield, Ivan

60th Medical Surgical Operations Squadron

Sprecco, Deedra

60th Component Maintenance Squadron

Elders, Kathy

60th Civil Engineer Squadron

Stupnikov, Dmitriy

60th Equipment Maintenance Squadron

Quinn, Destiny

60th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Velasco, Monica

60th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Denton, Bethany

Browning, Michael,

Nugent Shanna

Raines Timothy

615th Air Mobility Operations Squadron

Dominy, James

660th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Acosta, Harry

Bowman Kenneth

Robertson, Lyle

Band, Ricks, Veronica

Construction caution



Senior Airmen Nicholas Olson / 60th AMW Public Affairs

Construction is happening all over Travis. Residents should be cautious and patient while traveling around the base.

Values are hallmark of true professionals

View Point

Col. David Francis

Staff Judge Advocate, Hill Air Force Base, Utah

HILL AIR FORCE BASE, Utah — From entry-level training for new recruits to the every-day news coverage of events in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere around the world, we are constantly told that today's military is the most "professional" in America's history.

Within the Air Force, we pride ourselves on being "professional" officers, airmen and civilians who provide "professional" support to our warfighters.

Despite this, few of us ever take the time to think about what being a professional in today's Air Force really means. Were we to do so, I think most of us, while we have some idea of professionalism in the broadest sense, would agree that it is hard to define.

In fact, there are so many aspects to professionalism, both large and small, that it would take a lifetime to fully explore. Even then, I expect we would all come up with different definitions.

There are, however, certain fundamental values that the many professionals I have been privileged to meet in my career hold dear. I want to share what I believe are four of the most important.

To me, these four values epitomize the "IDEA" of the true professional.

Integrity:

The "I" in "IDEA" represents the single most important part of professionalism. It is the very bedrock upon which our professional military stands and without which it must surely fail.

That foundation is integrity, once described by Gen. Lee Butler, last commander-in-chief of Strategic Air Command, as "that rock-ribbed, uncompromising, deeply rooted commitment to doing what is right in the face of all obstacles, consequences and temptations to do otherwise."

Integrity is the priceless commodity that allows us to trust our leaders with our careers, our military family environment and, in times of war, even our lives. It is also the essential ingredient that allows all of us to work as a team, to depend on the person next to us to do his or her job both well and honestly, so we can do ours.

Integrity involves more than what we normally think of as basic honesty. All of us know and recognize that we should not lie, cheat or steal, but that is just the easy part.

The hard part is knowing and making the right choice when the issues are much smaller or less clear-cut. Do you resist the urge to "borrow" government pencils, pens or other small supplies for the kids to use in school?

Do you avoid taking part in damaging rumors or gossip about fellow airmen and co-workers, and stop others from doing so? Are you honest in your appraisal of those who work for and with you?

How many times have you as a supervisor been assigned a new worker who did not measure up to standards but had received the highest possible ratings on his or her last evaluation? How many of you, in rating your own people, have allowed your own appraisal of an individual's performance to be shaded by your personal friendship with that person?

You might think it doesn't matter, but how would you feel, and how would that person feel, if because of such a sterling, untrue rating, he or she was assigned to a critical job without the proper skills, causing that person and the mission supported to fail miserably?

The point is that our system requires, and is built on the need for, both individual and organizational integrity. True professionals recognize that goal and strive to meet it.

Dedication:

"D" in the "IDEA" of professionalism stands for dedication. In my time in the Air Force, I have slowly come to realize that nothing is truer than that old recruiting slogan: "The Air Force is more than just a job — it is a way of life."

Anyone who doesn't think so needs only to spend a tour at one of our overseas bases or on deployment, where we all have to function together as part of our own small community.

Because of the closeness in which we all live and work, we cannot treat the Air Force as just another 8 to 5 job, shedding all responsibilities when we leave work and ignoring the needs of our communities until

we return the next day. As professionals, we have to be willing to dedicate ourselves not to just the routine part of our work, but to the success of our overall mission and the quality of life in our communities.

Professionals enthusiastically put in the extra hours to get the job done. They volunteer, and encourage their families to volunteer, to fill the needs of our community to the best of their ability, whether as an office volunteer, a choir or Sunday School leader, a coach for one of the base teams, a Boy or Girl Scout leader, or any number of other jobs that mean the difference between just living and enjoying a true quality of life.

Dedication also means dedicated support of Air Force requirements and policies, as set forth in Air Force directives and instructions. As Air Force professionals, we have an obligation to learn and understand Air Force policy and to fairly and honestly apply that policy to the best of our ability, even if we might not agree with it on a personal level.

This applies to simple issues like drug abuse, and to the more emotionally charged, far-reaching issues like homosexuals in the military, or even the need for our recent, massive organizational changes.

Embrace change:

"E" in "IDEA" means we must embrace change. Change in today's Air Force is a fact of life. As professionals, we must recognize that we do not live in a static environment.

Our mission and Air Force structure constantly shift to meet the needs of our changing world environment and changing technology. Change is inevitable and, if we are to continue to perform our mission, and do it well, we cannot fight that change. We have to embrace it and recognize that we are uniquely trained and qualified to deal with it.

Action:

The "A" in "IDEA" stands for action, again and again and again. You can be as personally honest, dedicated and receptive to change as the day is long, but if you do not put those qualities into action, they amount to nothing.

Integrity, dedication, embracing change and action — these are the hallmarks of the true professionals I have known and the values we must all strive for if we are to live up to their example.

Learning to fly at the Aero Club

60th Services Squadron

There are many steps to obtain a private pilot's license and ground school is usually the first one. The Travis Aero Club, a Federal Aviation Administration designated testing center, offers the courses needed to prepare students to pass the FAA's written private pilot examination.

The 10-week ground school course runs April 22 through June 26 from 6 to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the main classroom of the Aero Club. Registration is open to all personnel with an ambition to become a licensed pilot.

"Ground School can be taken before, after or concurrent with flight training - and we have flight instructors ready to take students," said the Aero Club's new manager Joey Hefferon. "We also have several computers with software programs to practice taking the FAA's written exams available to club members and students.

Ground School tuition is \$325 but tuition assistance is available to many military per-



Archive photo

Students at the Aero Club ground school go over lessons during their 10-week course.

sonnel through the base education office. The Jeppesen Private Pilot Kit runs an additional \$175.

The Aero Club also offers flight training for those interested in obtaining their instrument rating as well as their commercial certificate. In addition, military pilots who have a commercial multiengine certificate can obtain their single engine commercial add on with minimal requirements and at minimal cost.

For more information call the Travis Aero Club, Flight Training Center at 437-3470. Office hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



**Conquer the
world of words.**

Visit the library.

Travis jumps into Spring

By Linda Mann-
liames

60th Services Squadron

Springtime at Travis brings a little rain, beautiful flowers, Easter celebrations and a lot of fun and prizes with the Spring is in the Air promotion. Many of the Services facilities have joined forces to create an exciting array of events and activities for the Travis community.

From the Eggs on Display art contest to the Month of the Military Child in April, the entire base populous is invited to participate in artistic, educational and fun events all month long.

The month kicks off with the artistic creations of the chil-

dren from the Travis Child Development Centers, the Youth Center and Family Child Care homes being displayed in various base locations. Giant painted wooden eggs will be exhibited in various Services facilities after the Eggs on Display contest on April 18.

Parents and caregivers are part of the focus in April, with the Parent Advisory Board meeting from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on April 16 at the Delta Breeze Club. The meeting will include special child abuse prevention training.

There will also be an Early Childhood Mini Conference at the Family Support Center from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on April

26. Call Shenethia Carter, Family Member Programs Flight chief at 424-2729 for more information about these meetings.

The Eggstravaganza is an Easter weekend tradition with an egg hunt, arts and crafts and refreshments for Travis children from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Little League baseball fields on April 18.

The Butler Carnival returns to Travis from April 24 to 27 with games, thrill rides, cotton candy, Private Pickle and more carnival fun for everyone. Discount tickets will be available in advance at the Youth Center and at Travis Bowl in mid-April. Call 424-5392 for more information.

Promotions

Retirements

Awards

Medals

HOMETOWN NEWS RELEASES

When something big happens in your military career, it's worth telling the folks back home. To learn how, call 424-2011.

PCSing

Training

Reenlistments

Education

NEWS NOTES

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE

MPF Office hours

The Reenlistment, Personnel Employment, Separation and Retirements offices at MPF will be closed to walk-in customers all day Monday due to training. All previously scheduled appointments will be rescheduled. If people need assistance they can see the commander's support staff.

Parents and schools

Parents of children who attend schools within the Travis Unified School District must first report to the administration offices before visiting their children. Just as we are vigilant regarding people in and around Travis who may not be sponsored, so too are the schools. In fact, the schools will require parents to wear a visitor's badge indicating their visit is documented and verified. If the

parent fails to process through the administration office before entering the school grounds, they will be asked to leave. This measure is important for the protection and well being of children.

DBC open

The Delta Breeze Club is now open on Mondays for lunch during Force Protection Bravo.

Festival de la Familia

Staff from the Festival de la Familia is looking for volunteers for this year's festival, which will be held April 27 at Cal Expo in Sacramento. Volunteers are needed for children's areas, information booths, security patrols and stage assistants. For more information, contact Laurie at (916) 452-0926 or log onto www.festivalde-lafamilia.com. and look for volunteer application.

The American Flag



"The lines of red are lines of blood, nobly and unselfishly shed by men who loved the liberty of their fellow men more than they loved their own lives and fortunes. God forbid that we should have to use the blood of America to freshen the color of the flag. But if it should ever be necessary, that flag will be colored once more, and in being colored will be glorified and purified."

President Woodrow Wilson

Flag Day, 1915

Report safety hazards, prevent accidents

60th AMW Safety Office

Hazard awareness is vital to the Air Force mission. Statistics show that certain mishaps could have been prevented if someone reported a hazardous situation to Civil Engineering, a supervisor, Wing Safety, or Base housing. Being proactive, rather than reactive, produces a safer environment for all Travis personnel. In accordance with Air Force Instruction 91-202, The U.S. Air Force Mishap Prevention Program, commanders, functional managers, supervisors and individuals must contribute to the mishap prevention program. An effective program depends on people integrating mishap prevention at every functional level and being responsible for complying with applicable safety standards. Below are some hazard reporting tips for both Air Force personnel and dependents:

Travis personnel reporting procedures

Report hazards to the responsible supervisor or local agency. If the hazard is eliminated on the spot, no further action is required unless it applies to other similar operations or to other units or agencies.

If the hazard presents imminent danger, the supervisor or individual responsible for that

area must take immediate action to correct the situation or apply interim control measures.

Report hazards that cannot be eliminated immediately to the safety office by AF Form 457, USAF Hazard Report, telephone, fax or in person. Reports can be submitted anonymously.

The safety staff investigates the HR. The investigator discusses the HR with the member who submitted the report (if known), the responsible supervisor or manager, and other parties involved to validate the hazard and determine the best interim control and corrective action.

Travis dependent reporting procedures

Report hazards to the responsible local agency. If the hazard is eliminated on the spot, no further action is required.

For hazards that present imminent danger take immediate action by calling the 60th Air Mobility Wing Ground Safety Manager at 424-1113. Reports can be submitted anonymously.

The 60th AMW Ground Safety Manager and the safety staff will investigate the reported hazard. The investigator will then discuss the hazard with the person who submitted the report.

Travis EOD on the job



Spc. James P. Johnson / AFPN

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM — A master sergeant from the 60th Explosive Ordnance Disposal team at Travis ropes off a safe area far from an uncontrolled natural-gas fire in the Rumaylah oil fields in southern Iraq Sunday. He and other EOD airmen are disarming any unexploded ordnance, land mines or booby traps to help firefighters safely tackle the blaze. He is assigned to the 384th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

American pride flows through all of us

It's in our blood

*Give a little pride
at the DGMC
Blood Donor Center*

Monday through

Thursday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Walk-ins are welcome

Appointments are available

For more information, call 423 - 7766



ASBP

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE

Announcements

Children's exhibits

In honor of April being the Month of the Military Child, children's art exhibits and family activities will be at various base locations throughout the month. Call 424-2143 for more information.

Ground school

Ground school classes at the Aero Club begin April 22 with 100 percent tuition assistance available for active-duty military. Call Aero Club manager Joey Heffernon at 437-3470 for more information.

Squadron fundraiser

Squadron booster clubs and other private organizations can earn \$600 to \$1,000 helping the Delta Breeze Club sell advance tickets to upcoming events at the club. Call Charles Thomas at 437-3711 for more information.

Services

Today

▲ The Delta Breeze Club hosts a Women's History Month luncheon and silent auction from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The menu is London broil, roast turkey or chef salad. Club members pay \$10f and non-members pay \$12. Call Master Sgt. Sonya Moore at 424-5172, 1st Lt. Harmony Myers at 424-7646 or Capt. JulieWierner at 424-5359 for tickets.

Saturday

▲ The Delta Breeze Club's Traditions Fine Dining is from 6 to 9 p.m. A half-price children's menu is available. Call 437-3711 for reservations.

Sunday

▲ The DBC is offering a champagne Sunday brunch from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The price is \$18.95 for non-members, \$12.95 for Member's First, \$5.95 for children 6 to 12 and free for children 5 and under.

Monday

▲ It's the last day for the chili weather golf special at Cypress Lakes Golf Course. One price includes green fees, cart fee, a child, dog, soda and a sleeve of golf balls. The price is

\$23 for E-1 to E-4, \$26 for E-5 and above and DoD civilians, and \$35 for civilian guests. Call 424-5797 for details.

Tuesday

▲ The DBC is offering an April fool's lunch buffet from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Members who present their club card will receive a surprise.

Wednesday

▲ Travis Bowl is offering unlimited bowling for \$5, which includes shoe rental, from 3 to 5 p.m. every Wednesday. This special offer is good through the end of the April.

Thursday

▲ It's the last day to sign up for the O'Reilly's Oyster and Beer Festival in San Francisco on April 5. Transportation with Information, Tickets and Travel is \$12 for adults. Call 424-5659 for more information.

Family Support

Monday

▲ Spouse Employment Orientation is from 9 to 10 a.m. for newly arrived spouses. Topics include employment and career development programs at the Family Support Center. Call 424-2486.

▲ The TAP VA briefing is from 10 a.m. to noon. The VA will provide information on VA benefits for separating and retiring members.

Tuesday

▲ The FSC Readiness NCO will conduct deployment briefings at 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. for all personnel tasked for deployment or TDY at the FSC. Call 424-2486 for reservations. Those unable to make scheduled briefings, can call to arrange a one-on-one briefing.

▲ Ultimate Job Search is at the FSC from 8 a.m. to noon. This half-day job search workshop includes skills and self-assessments, job search techniques and more. Call 424-2486.

Wednesday

▲ WIC representatives will be at the FSC from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. by appointment only. Call 435-2200.

Thursday

▲ The Professional Growth

Lifeguards on duty



Linda Mann-Ilames / 60th Services Squadron

Lifeguards are needed for the Travis Aquatic Center, which holds its opening Memorial Day weekend. High school and college students age 16 and older may apply. Call Kalena Tillery at Human Resources for more information.

and Development class, for airmen E-3 and below, is from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the FSC. Call 424-2486.

▲ WIC representatives will be at the FSC from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. by appointment only. Call 435-2200.

▲ The budgeting and credit class is from 9 to 11 a.m. at the FSC. Call 424-2486.

▲ Skills and Self Assessment is from 9 a.m. to noon for job seekers. Explore different career paths based on personality type, skills, abilities and interests. Call 424-2486.

▲ The FSC Readiness NCO will conduct a deployment briefing at 2 p.m. for all personnel tasked for deployment or TDY at the FSC. Call 424-2486 for reservations. Those unable to make scheduled briefings, can call to arrange a one-on-one briefing.

April 4

The Success Dressing Workshop, which teaches techniques for dressing professionally for job interviews and work, is from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. for women and 1 to 3 p.m. for men. Call 424-2486 to register.

Weekly

The Air Force Aid Society will pay for up to 20 hours of child care (per child) for all ranks of active duty AF with PCS orders in to Travis or departing Travis. The care is available within 60 days of arrival or departure. Child care is in licensed Family Child Care homes on Travis. Certificates are issued by the Relocation staff at the Family Support Center. For information, call 424-2486.

Family Advocacy

Playgroups

Playgroups are for parents and their children and are held at the Chapel One Annex on First Street. The first Tuesday and Wednesday of each month, the playgroups meet at the Duck Pond for a stroller stroll. During rainy weather they meet at the McDonald's on the second floor of Solano Mall. The Toddlers Playgroup is Wednesdays from 9:30 to 11 a.m. for children age 18 months to 3 years. Tuesdays from 10 to 11:30 a.m. is the Time For Us Playgroup, for children 3 to 5. Thursdays from 9:30 to 11 a.m. is the Rattles To Raspberries Playgroup, for infants up to 18 months old.

Parents can network with other parents while their children enjoy crafts, guest speakers, music and free play. Registration is not necessary. For more information call 423-5168.

Dads boot camp

Boot Camp for new Dads is a program in which veterans (new fathers who bring their babies) show rookies (fathers-to-be) the ropes of fatherhood. The program is for men only. The program is currently recruiting new dads whose wives are expecting and rookie dads whose wives have just had a baby. Classes are held quarterly. For more information, call 423-5168.

Parenting classes

Parenting classes are offered as a six-week program geared toward parents of children 3 and older. Topics include peer pressure, corrective teaching, preventing problems before they occur, family meetings, and stopping problem behavior. Classes are held at David Grant Medical Center. Call the Family Advocacy office to register at 423-5168.

DGMC participates in MARE

By Jim Spellman
60th MDG Public Affairs

The Scenario: You're riding your bicycle near the flight line when a large blast knocks you over. You try to break your fall and you feel a "snap" followed by great pain in your right arm. It not only hurts to move your arm, but it has a funny bend in the lower part above your wrist. Off in the distance, you see a billowing cloud of smoke and debris as emergency vehicles respond to a major commotion on the flight line.

A case of not being able to ride your bike properly? And what of that large blast? Was it a terrorist attack in response to Operation Iraqi Freedom? Not exactly.

"The 60th AMW exercised its' ability to respond to a mass casualty incident — in this case, an aircraft disaster that allowed us to practice and prepare for the upcoming Air Tattoo," stated Maj. Amelia Hutchins-Steward, chief of the 60th Medical Group's exercise evaluation team for Travis.

For the wing-wide major accident response exercise held on March 20, the 60th MDG's objectives were to test the ability to recall and assemble disaster teams, evaluate the disaster teams clinical/operational efficiency from the field to termination of care during a mass casualty incident, and evaluate Team Travis' medical staff on mass casualty coordination with local community network.

"We moulaged — applied makeup simulating injuries - to forty 'patients' for the event, who were AFROTC cadets from Vanden High School," Hutchins-Steward explained. "In all, the total numbers for the simulation were forty 'casualties' with

five 'fatalities. By the exercise's end we had treated and/or moved patients from triage in the field, as well as treated and/or moved patients from the emergency room to the disaster teams, and activated the blood donor center."

"Additionally, we appropriately took patients to surgery, called our local medical network for transfer notifications and requests for patient movement and/or medical support at their facilities, inquired as to availability of more blood units from civilian collection sites, and stabilized/planned for admitting those patients we could not support in the event we became overwhelmed," stated 1st Lt. Tim Christison, deputy commander, medical readiness flight and mobility officer for the David Grant Medical Center.

"In the end, we were able to demonstrate that we could respond to the challenge."

"As always, communication is the key and we continue to look for ways to improve,"

Hutchins-Steward stated. "Communication process problems were identified and corrective measures were discussed during our MARE 'hotwash' or debrief."

Overall, the MARE exercise resulted in very good results and valuable lessons learned for the medical teams in the event the simulation becomes very real. "DGMC personnel are highly prepared and trained to work these types of scenarios," explained Christison. "I truly believe Team Travis members should feel very confident in the capabilities and professionalism displayed by our personnel to handle any type of medical emergency or crisis."



Jim Spellman /DGMC

Members from David Grant Medical Center treat patients during last weeks Major Accident Response Exercise.

Air Force Office of Special Investigations, Detachment 303 award winners, Travis

The Travis AFOSI Detachment 303 award winners are:

Special agents Vasaga Tilo, Jr. and Marc Palmosina, awarded the bronze star
Special Agent Vasaga Tilo, Jr., awarded the AFOSI Lance P. Sijan Leadership Award
Special Agent Dave Downing, AFOSI Outstanding IMA of the year
Special Agent Vasaga Tilo, Jr, AFOSI Region Three, Company Grade Officer Special Agent of the Year
Master Sgt. Ernie Rehart, AFOSI "12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year" award
Master Sgt. Ernie Rehart, AFOSI Outstanding Supply Personnel of the Year

CRIME STOPPER

TRAVIS SECURITY FORCES ACTIVITY

March 17

- » Fire response at the dorms
- » Medical emergency at Bldg. 845
- » Damage to private property in Suisun City
- » Damage to government property on Forbes Street
- » Domestic disturbance/assault on Broadway Street
- » DUI/Underage drinking at Bldg. 1334

March 18

- » Theft of government property at Bldg. 942
- » Suspected child abuse in Suisun City
- » Alleged child abuse at Bldg. 7763
- » Shoplifting at the Base Exchange

March 19

- » Minor vehicle accident on Bradley and Norton Street
- » DUI/Damage to government property at the Westwind Inn

March 20

- » Medical emergency on Bond Street
- » Child neglect in base housing
- » Minor vehicle accident at Skymaster and Travis Boulevard

March 21

- » Minor vehicle accident at Bldg. 848
- » Shoplifter apprehended at BX
- » Civilian DUI at the Main Gate
- » Loud noise complaint Bldg. 1305

March 22

- » Damage to private property on Bond Street
- » Animal control on Twin Peaks Drive
- » DUI on Broadway Street

March 23

- » Towed vehicle for expired registration on Nevada Street
- » Assault/Possession of controlled substance, Travis Boulevard
- » Possible DUI at the Main Gate

Crime Tip

Show children how to settle arguments or solve problems without using words or actions that hurt others. Set the example by the way you handle everyday conflicts in the family, at work, and in the neighborhood.

Military Personnel and Immediate Family

To reach members of your family in times of emergency need, call the American Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Service Center toll-free at 1-877-272-7337.



Depot fuels military effort

By Senior Airman Nicholas Olson
60th AMW Public Affairs

When a unit requests anything from a pair of boots to a set of tires for a Humvee, the Defense Distribution Center San Joaquin, California, is the first line in the supply chain.

"The effective performance of our mission is critical to the readiness of U.S. Armed Forces in our area of responsibility," said Col. Edward Visker, U.S. Army, Commander, DDJC.

San Joaquin is considered a mega-depot along with the Defense Distribution Center Susquehanna, Penn. Both are two of the DDC Strategic Distribution Platforms. As an SDP, DDJC handles the complete inventory of stocks owned and managed by the Defense Logistics Agency along with thousands of service-owned and managed items, nearing one million different items total.

DLA fills 83 percent of all requisitions, supplying all of the service needs for clothing, food, medical items, fuel and packaged petroleum products as well as 90 percent of all repair parts, according to Doug Imberi, DDJC Public Affairs.

"We are the only logistical support agency in the Department of Defense," Imberi said. "Any supplies you need to order come from here."

The DDJC is strategically positioned to provide worldwide distribution support to all branches of service in the western United States and the Pacific Theater of Operations. The DDJC is located in Northern California, 60 miles east of San Francisco, and provides support to bases such as Travis Air Force Base, Hill AFB, Utah, Yokosuka and Tongduchon Air Bases, Japan and Army Posts such as Fort Hood, Texas.

"Our biggest customers are Fort Hood and Hill Air Force Base," said Imberi.

One of the most unique and important missions of the DDJC is the Unitized Group Ration. The assembly line operation produces a heat-and-serve meal using commercially available foods to build breakfast and dinner meals for troops located in a field environment.

"The UGR is designed to simplify and streamline the field feeding process by integrating the components of heat-and-serve rations with quickly prepared, brand name commercial products," Imberi said. "It combines everything needed to provide 50 meals in one unit."

Commercial items include sauces and

mixes used to reduce preparation time in the field. A UGR contains a main course, large cafeteria-sized cans of vegetables, desserts, and fruit.

"The items in the UGR change according to the 14 dinner and 7 breakfast menus," Imberi said.

In addition, each module contains a bottle of hot sauce, a powdered drink, coffee, paper trays and cups, dining packets with plastic utensils, napkins, and salt and pepper.

"The ingredients we use to build the modules come in by the truckload daily," Imberi said. "An assembly line starts with a carton-making machine and ends with a pallet full of meals covered with stretch wrap. In between are a whole lot of steps with people adding cans, bottles and little packages of ingredients that make a complete meal."

The storage capacity of the DDJC is immense with 30 warehouses on 1,600 acres of land with two locations in Tracy and Sharpe, Calif.

"The Sharpe site houses more than two-dozen immense warehouses spread over 448 acres and is the hub for distribution operations," Imberi said.

The Sharpe site is nearly double the acreage of Tracy and contains several warehouses of DDJC stock. The two sites were merged in 1990 to form a single operation as part of a Department of Defense prototype of depot consolidation.

"The Sharpe site has become a major industrial complex housing several tenant organizations," Imberi said.

These organizations include the Army Air Force Exchange Service Western Distribution Center and the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office operations and the Northern California offices of the Defense Contract Management Agency.

Overseas operations are supported by through the DDJCs Consolidation and Containerization Point, operating similar to a cross-docking, freight-forwarding business, shipping and sorting items from other distribution centers, the General Services Administration and independent vendors are shipped to the CCP for consolidation into seagoing vans or on special air pallets for shipping to customers overseas.

The DDJC employs 1475 workers and contributes over \$165 million annually to the local economy.

The DDC is headquartered in New Cumberland, Penn.



Senior Airman Nicholas Olson / 60th AMW Public Affairs



Top — Deborah Herdrich, a DDJC materials handler, selects material from one of the many bins holding parts and military materiel.

Far left — Richard Martinez tightens the webbing on an air pallet headed for the Aerial Port at Travis.

Left — Packer Hoanh Tran adds items to the Unitized Group Rations assembly line. DDJC builds seven different breakfast menus and 14 different dinner menus for soldiers in the field.

When it comes to contracting ...

Every counts

60th Contracting Squadron

Planning ahead for an event is a given. However, planning for the unknown is not time wasted.

Imagine receiving a sum of money to spend at a store but very little time with which to spend it. Planning would be very important, to include a visit to the store ahead of time to become familiarized with the available products. A map of the route could then be made for priority items, then when notified of the start of the shopping spree, one could merely show up at the store early and meander around while the clock is counting down.

A plan would have to be made to make the most of the money provided. If the cart was half full but filled with low value items, it could feel like a missed opportunity.

It is much the same way for resource advisors as time draws near for them to prepare for the end-of-year shopping spree. Advisors need to plan now so that when the money comes in, the 60th Contracting Squadron can purchase each squadron's requirement items.

"It is critical that all RAs expend upfront effort so the contracting office can utilize the money available," said Lt. Col. Jeff Whittall, 60th Contracting Squadron commander.

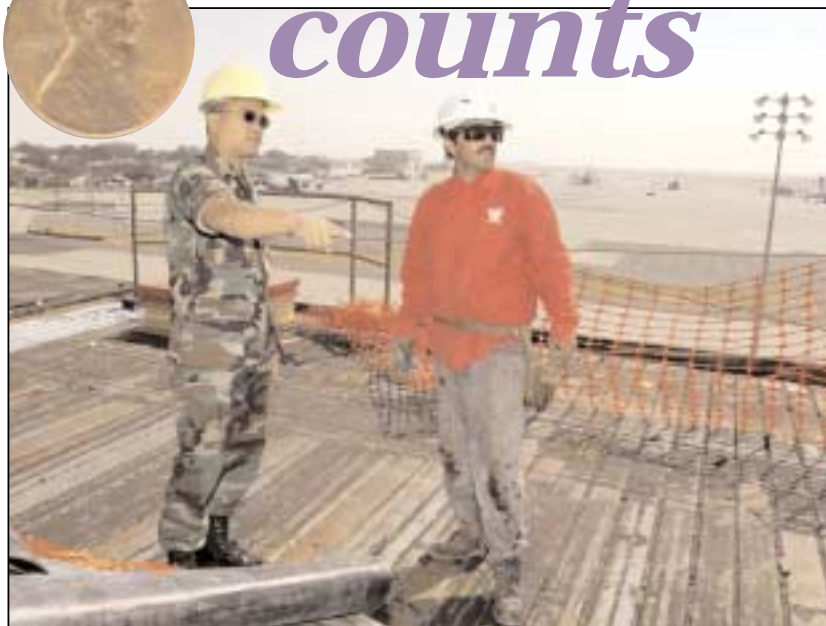
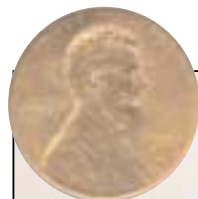
The development of a ready-to-execute package is the most

important thing to do for those items not currently funded but are anticipated as year-end fall-out money, explained Whittall.

There are two important distinctions to funding — funded requirements and unfunded packages. The RTE is for "wish list" items that are not yet funded, but hope to be in the future. The cut-off date for submissions of RTE packages to the Finance and Contracting offices is August 15. Funded and planned requirements, those pending receipt of funds, are packages that are ready to be advertised by the contracting office.

Federal laws regulate time frames for much of the acquisition cycle, so it is imperative that certain cut-off dates be met to ensure base contracting can obligate all available funds. Due to these limitations, and in accordance with Local Purchase Program, AFI 64-109, all funded requirements must be submitted to the contracting squadron by the certain cut-off dates. Any requirement identified after these dates must be coordinated through the respective group commander or tenant organization commander and processed as an emergency.

Last year, the contracting squadron was able to procure 148 unfunded purchase requests due to year-end fall out money. Those procurements were made possible because the RAs planned ahead of time. All



Courtesy photo

Tech. Sgt. Dan Vidal, of the 60th Contracting Squadron surveys a roofing project with a Western Roofing contract employee atop a Travis C-5 hanger.

of their paperwork was in order when the clock approached midnight on September 30 on the East Coast. Excess money then rolled westward and the contracting squadron was able to put items on contract.

Last year was a record year in which the contracting squadron, with the help of finance, was able to award \$1.2 million worth of contracts during the last 15 minutes of the fiscal year. The key was dedicated finance and contracting

people and advance preparation by the RAs.

Although contracting works diligently year round to provide the base with the necessary services, construction and commodities, the end-of-year is always a wild ride. Last fiscal year the contracting squadron obligated \$76 million.

There were \$33 million worth of contracts awarded in September, which is 43 percent of volume accomplished in one month, according to Whittall.

The 60th Contracting Squadron is the last link in a long chain of processes to acquire services, commodities, or construction for Travis. Contracting does not want to leave any money unspent but needs the help of the requesting activity.

"Help us to help you," Whittall said. "Be prepared, plan ahead and reap the benefits at the year-end shopping spree."

Questions can be directed to base contracting at 424-7711.



Far left — Senior Airman Lynn Trusty, 60th Contracting Squadron, meets with a Pride Industry employee concerning a grounds maintenance services contract.

Left — Virginia Sanchez and Airman 1st Class Gion Lalican, contract administrators for the 60th Contracting Squadron, review construction contracts.